

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has reviewed the final draft of “Water Quality Control Policy for the Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Water Treatment Systems” and has the following comments regarding the final draft.

Section 4.3.2 as written appears to limit the scope to comment only a Local Agency Management Programs’ proposed procedures for notifying local water purveyors prior to OWTS permitting. Below are the section 4.3.2 as written and CDPH’s suggested rewrite of section 4.3.2.

As written:

Section 4.3.2

Within 30 days of receipt of a proposed Local Agency Management Program, a Regional Water Board will forward a copy to and solicit comments from the California Department of Public Health regarding a Local Agency Management Programs’ proposed procedures for notifying local water purveyors prior to OWTS permitting.

Suggested rewrite:

Section 4.3.2

Within 30 days of receipt of a proposed Local Agency Management Program, a Regional Water Board will forward a copy to and solicit comments from the California Department of Public Health regarding a Local Agency Management Program.

With this rewrite CDPH can comment on the Local Agency Management Program as whole. Of particular concern to CDPH is section 9.2.12 which allows the Local Agency Management Program to establish alternate siting and operational criteria for the proposed OWTS that would similarly mitigate the potential adverse impact to the public water source when it is within the horizontal sanitary setback. CDPH wants the ability to comment on the alternate siting and operational criteria as well as the rest of the policies and procedures in the Local Agency Management Plan pertinent to 9.2.12. In addition there are other sections in the final draft of “Water Quality Control Policy for the Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Water Treatment Systems” which require the Local Agency Management Plan to address dealing with public water sources. CDPH wants to have the ability to comment on these sections of the Local Agency Management Plan as well.

Section 3.5

A local agency shall notify the owner of a public well or water intake and the California Department of Public Health as soon as practicable, but not later than 72 hours, upon its discovery of a failing OWTS as described in sections 11.1 and 11.2 within the setbacks described in sections 7.5.6 through 7.5.10.

Section 7.6.1

The permitting agency shall provide a copy of the permit application to the owner of the water system of their proposal to install an OWTS within 1,200 of an intake for a surface water treatment. If the owner of the water system cannot be identified, then the permitting agency will notify California Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program.

Section 9.2.11

Procedures for notifying the owner of a public water system prior to issuing an installation or repair permit for an OWTS, if the OWTS is within 1,200 feet of an intake for a surface water treatment plant for drinking water and is in the drainage area catchment in which the intake is located, or if the OWTS is within a horizontal sanitary setback from a public well.

Section 9.2.12

Policies and procedures that will be followed when a proposed OWTS dispersal area is within the horizontal sanitary setback of a public well or a surface water intake. These policies and procedures shall either indicate that supplemental treatment as specified in 10.9 and 10.10 of this policy are required for OWTS that are within a horizontal sanitary setback of a public well or surface water intake, or will establish alternate siting and operational criteria for the proposed OWTS that would similarly mitigate the potential adverse impact to the public water source.